

Ecuador

I. The Republic of the Equator & Its People

By Hamilton Fyfe

Author of "The Real Mexico"

ECUADOR is famous chiefly for mountains and cacao. Besides the mountainous region and the coast belt, which is covered with tropical vegetation instead of being bare and barren like the coasts of Chile and Peru, there is in the east of Ecuador a forest area which some day will yield vast riches in rubber and woods and fat pasturage for cattle. At present it is inhabited only by wild Indians, using the blow-gun and shooting with poisoned arrows, and living in an entirely savage way.

There are a number of different tribes of these interesting people, and their characteristics vary a good deal. Some, like the Jivaros, are hard-working and energetic. Besides hunting, these Indians cultivate plantations and breed pigs with intelligence; they build capital canoes; they like to be occupied. They take pains also to keep themselves in health. Some of them even have been reported by travellers to tickle their throats with a feather every morning to make them vomit; they do not think it is healthy to leave in the stomach any food from the previous day. Very unlike the Jivaros are the Canelos Indians, who are brave, but very lazy.

Home Life of the Indians

Both are hospitable, a good quality found, indeed, among the natives of South America generally; but they always expect presents from those who have stayed with them, so their kindness is not altogether disinterested. They are apt to be very curious, too, about the property of strangers, and will take hold sometimes of what visitors are wearing or carrying in their pockets in order to examine it closely.

The Indians' houses are usually made of palm leaves supported by the trunks of the trees. The rafters of the roofs are bamboo, and over them the palm leaves

are laid. The dwellings are spacious, and airy so long as the fire is not alight. It frequently happens that one house will be inhabited by several families; each has its own corner and its own belongings. They live on meat that they get by hunting and fish which they catch in the rivers and lakes, on boiled plantains and on chicha, a preparation from the cassava root, in which they firmly believe as nourishment and stimulant combined. This looks rather like mashed potatoes.

Native Dress and Burial Customs

It is prepared by women, who chew the root and then let it ferment. That is not pleasant to think about when it is offered to one, but it has valuable properties. It is both sustaining and refreshing; and as the meat is generally eaten so high as to be revolting to any but an Indian stomach, one falls back on chicha with relief. A kind of spirit is distilled from plantains, but in their natural state the Indians are little addicted to drunkenness; it is when they have white men's liquors put in their way that this vice grows upon them so disastrously.

In general their dress is simple and scanty. They mostly wear linen drawers, though there are some, among the Napo Indians for instance, who prefer long and wide shirts. They are fond of ornament, they adorn themselves with feathers, beads, and necklaces of the teeth of animals; some of them paint their bodies, some make beautiful costumes out of the skins of birds. Among the Napos the dead are elaborately dressed for burial; clothes are even made specially for them, so that they may make a good appearance in the next world. This shows the intellectual level at which the native mind remains.

How simple the Indians are may be illustrated by the experience of the white

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man who received by carriers a consignment of provisions and a letter telling him what the packages contained. When he opened them he found some things missing, and told the carriers they were thieves. They did not deny the charge, but they said they wished they had torn up the magical letter which had watched them take the white man's property and then told him all about it!

The Indians are very often eager for instruction; they like to be read to; they are ready to learn anything the white man cares to teach them. Unhappily he usually teaches them harmful,

not improving habits. What he cannot learn from them is their marvellous skill in pursuing game. They seem at times to follow by scent alone; this at any rate seems to be so among the Zaparo tribe, who have the reputation of being the most skilful hunters of all. The courtship custom in this tribe is for the young man to throw down by the lady of his choice some game that he has killed. If she picks it up and cooks it, she accepts him. Refusal is conveyed by disdainfully turning away.

On the whole, the "wild" Indians are probably not any worse off than those



CELEBRATING A FIESTA AMONG THE INDIANS OF ECUADOR

Religious holidays are numerous in Ecuador, and in addition to the celebrations instituted by the Church, many fiestas are arranged by the devout natives in honour of their local saints. Primitive conditions characterise these fiestas and tawdry effigies, mingling with the brilliant ponchos of the men and the variegated shawls of the women, lend a decided kaleidoscopic effect to the dusky crowds

Photo, E. L. Andrade



ARTIFICIAL ANGELS OF ECUADORIAN RELIGIOUS CEREMONIAL

Many bedizened and garlanded effigies of angels are carried by the Indians during the procession, the leading feature of a religious fiesta. Some processions are attended by dancers, mimes and masqueraders, and not infrequently by the so-called "chacatascas," or public penitents, who, like the flagellants of the Middle Ages and the Indian fakirs, publicly inflict tortures upon themselves

Photo, E. L. Andrade

who have been tamed but not civilized, and who, with the negroes of Ecuador, do the work of the cacao and other plantations. These unfortunate creatures are slaves. They are not called slaves. Slavery is not permitted by the constitution of the Republic. But nearly all of them are in such a state of subjection to their masters that if they leave him he can put the police on their track, and when they are brought back to him they can be forced to pay out of their very small wages the expenses of their capture. The explanation of this is that every plantation worker must buy what he needs at the plantation store. He is given credit, encouraged to get into debt. Once in debt, he is a slave. He has no hope of clearing off his indebtedness. He must stay on the

plantation as long as he has strength enough to work.

This system could not last if the Indians and negroes and the lower kind of half-breeds were given any education worth the name. There exists, of course, on paper, an elaborate plan of compulsory education for everybody. One of the presidents of Ecuador gained a reputation by introducing this plan, but, like so much else in the Republic, it does not work. A German traveller who made a study of people and politics not many years ago wrote of the Indians: "They learn nothing but what the priest teaches them, and the priest teaches them nothing but what will be useful to him."

For a great many years the politics of Ecuador consisted of revolutions; at



PICHINCHA'S HEIGHTS COMMANDING QUITO, WHENCE FREEDOM CAME TO ECUADOR

Fine buildings are comparatively few in Ecuador, as might be expected in a country subject to devastating volcanic eruptions. Apart from the beautiful Jesuits' church the most handsome edifices of Quito, the capital, are in the Plaza Mayor, the government palace, shown here, occupying the west side. Behind the palace rises the extinct volcano Pichincha, on whose slopes, on May 22, 1822, the Ecuadorians defeated the Spanish and finally secured their independence



SUN-HEATED WATER FOR THE BATH: A UNIQUE HOT WATER INSTALLATION IN ECUADOR

Probably the most remarkable bath in the world is installed in the hacienda or estate of a wealthy Ecuadorian in the valley of Chillo, south of Quito. It is filled with water brought in this shallow aqueduct which is so constructed that the water is heated by the sole agency of the sun's rays. Ecuador, as the name implies, lies on the Equator, Quito being situated almost on the line, but owing to its altitude possessing a very agreeable temperature

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one period they occurred regularly about every twelve months. They were then accompanied, as a rule, by bloodshed. Now the same periodic changes happen in the control of the treasury, but they take place peacefully. The corruption which prevails among officials is due to the same causes that provoked revolutions. The whole object of all who get into office, whether great or small, is to make money.

It has been said by the same German observer that the ideal of the Ecuadorian is "riches without work." If they go into business they have to be looked after very sharply. They are not scrupulous about keeping bargains. The commercial atmosphere is charged with distrust. Even the banks have only of late got out of the habit of giving short money when drafts were cashed by unwary foreigners, and until recently they were allowed to refuse payment of worn-out notes, which was particularly

hard upon the holders, seeing that if the bank needed money it kept down the issue, in order that there might be only a few in circulation, which were bound to get worn-out.

Such abuses are tolerated by the ruling class, because they profit by them; as for the other classes, they are too ignorant and powerless even to protest. It is because the officials are badly paid, only hold their offices while their party is in power, and therefore have no pensions to look forward to as their support in old age, that they supplement their salaries and try to save something for the future by taking bribes. During their four years (that is, the presidential term) they are obliged to make all they can. At the end of the four years they may very likely be dismissed to make room for the partisans of a new president. Intelligent Ecuadorians see that this system is bad, but there is not enough energy among



THE BURDEN AND HEAT OF THE DAY

There is patbos in the picture presented by these Indian women bowed under their great burdens of fresh-cut fodder, tramping barefoot over the rough stones in the glaring sunshine, while in the church behind them they might find shade and rest. Before the construction of the railway all loads were carried by Indians, even pianos being thus conveyed long distances

Photo, E. L. Andrade



HAPPY FAMILY AT THE MID-DAY MEAL OUTSIDE THEIR STRAW CHOZA

The poncho is the favourite garment, but the Ecuadorian Indian would not consider his costume complete without the wide-brimmed straw hat. This is the only headgear he will wear, and the womenfolk follow his example. Skilful in straw-weaving, the Ecuadorians make not only the cheap hats worn by the poorer classes, but some of the finest Panamá hats that the world produces

Photo, E. L. Andrade

them to alter it. Thus the taxes, many of which produce hardly any revenue, are continually increased, the population is compelled to feed more and more officials, and the reforms which might civilize the country are merely talked about.

The people are accustomed to paying heavy tribute. This was exacted both by the Incas and by the Spaniards. They are always suspicious that some new exaction will be practised upon them. For a long time it was found impossible to take a census in the Republic. The fear aroused by the attempt to count the population was that a fresh tax was about to be imposed, and the population refused to be counted.

The anxiety of the Ecuadorian not to let slip any chance of putting money in his purse was amusingly illustrated by a story in Whymper's book. From the president of the Republic the famous climber had received a letter, directing that he should receive every attention on the railway, and so on. On one train journey he and his party were very hungry, and he asked the conductor if he could get them something to eat. The conductor produced two small pineapples, which were cut up and shared round. When the train came to a little town Whymper bought plenty of food and had a good meal, to which he invited the conductor, thinking that this wiped out any obligation to



WISDOM THAT GROWS FAT ON SUPERSTITION'S FOLLY

Psychiatric powers of no common kind are possessed by this Indian woman, every line in whose face and form indicates strong personality. She is known as Curandera, meaning "she cures," and in the absence of doctors is employed both by Indians and by whites, among whom she has performed some wonderful cures. Her speciality is removing the evil eye cast upon children

Photo, E. L. Andrade



PROMISING INDIAN STUDENTS OF WHITE CIVILIZATION

Their home is in the Daule district, a little north of Guayaquil, and they have taken kindly to the civilization with which proximity to that city port has brought them in contact. Many of the Indians display great eagerness for instruction and aptness to assimilate the culture of the white man, but the educational system of the country is still in the most elementary stage

Photo, E. L. Andrade



EVER-BUSY WORKER AT DISTAFF AND SPINDLE

Her spinning outfit accompanies the native woman of Ecuador almost everywhere she goes, and, provided her hands are not otherwise engaged, the nimble fingers are ever busily twisting and winding the thread. This mechanical spinning hinders her no whit from carrying out her various duties

Photo, E. L. Andrade



HONEST CRAFTSMANSHIP CONTENT WITH SIMPLE TOOLS

The yarn is put over a pole set transversely between two uprights and kept taut by the woman sitting in a loop of webbing attached to the bar passed through the other end. On these extremely simple handlooms some excellent textiles are produced both of wool and of cotton, which are afterwards made up into ponchos and other warm garments

Photo, H. E. Anthony

him. But when they parted the conductor asked, first, for the railway fares (paying no heed to the president's letter), next for the baggage charges, and finally he said, "Your excellency has forgotten to pay for the pineapples."

That was characteristic of the country. Expressions of welcome and of desire to serve abound always, but there is a change of front generally if any disposition is shown to take them literally. It is wise to regard such expressions as "My house is yours," or "I will do anything I can for you," merely in the light of meaningless polite formalities on a level with the old custom, still followed by some people in England, of ending up letters by professing oneself the obedient, humble servant of the person addressed. Sometimes, however, it happens that there is a genuine wish to be of service to strangers; then, if offers of help are not promptly accepted, those who have made them are annoyed.

The cacao, which is Ecuador's chief export to Europe and the U.S.A., grows there in such abundance that enough is produced to supply every man, woman and child in the British Isles with two pounds of cocoa a year. The cacao pods are shaped like lemons, but they are larger and more pointed. No attempt is made to prepare them for food on any large scale; the Ecuadorians are content to ship them and let the foreign manufacturer have the benefit. The largest supplies of this raw material for chocolate and cocoa come from their country, but only the planter reaps any advantage.

The word chocolate is derived from two Indian words meaning frothy (choco)



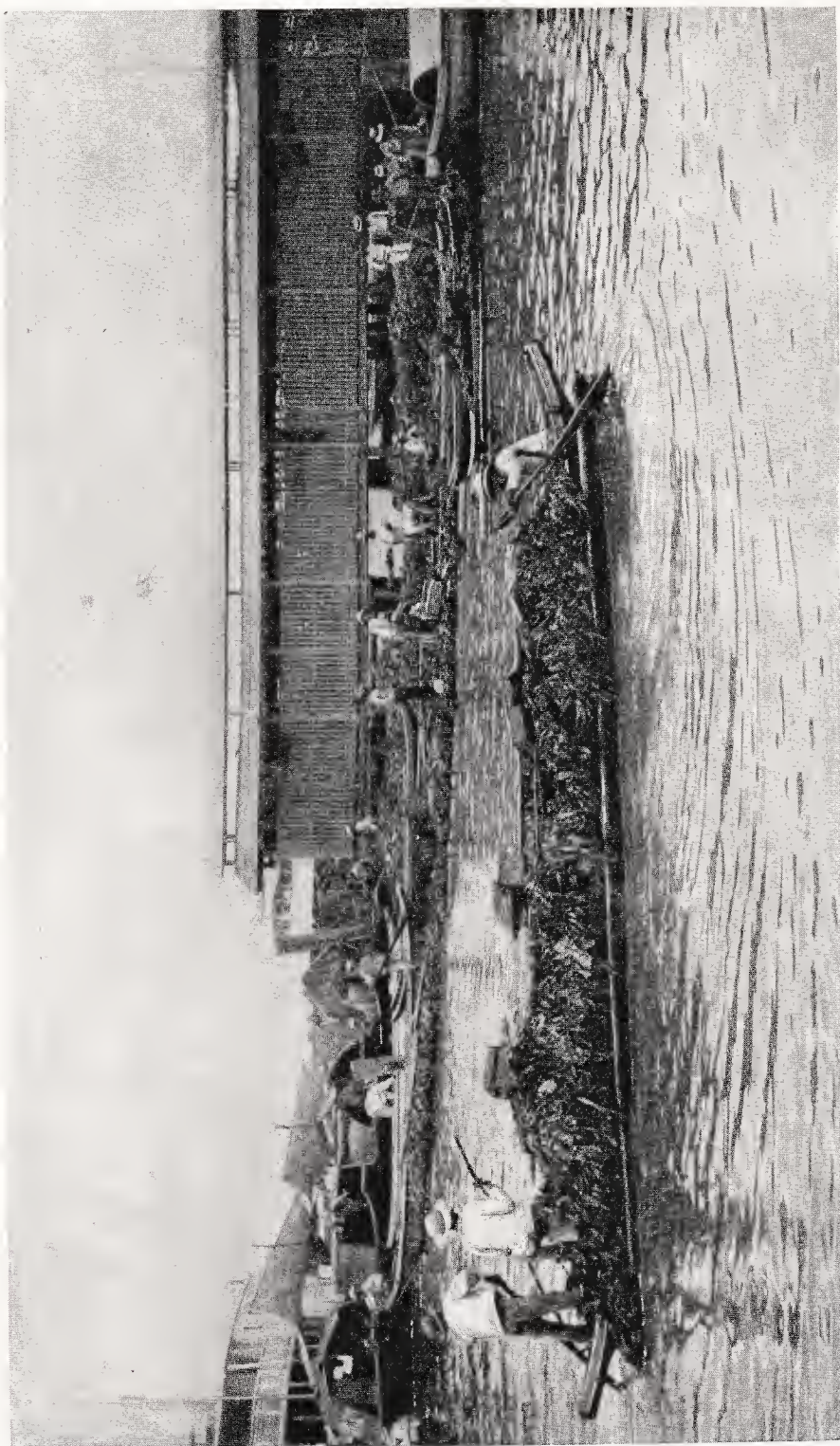
SPINSTERS—MARRIED AND SINGLE

Quicha women carry distaff and spindle with them wherever they go—the former a rough stick, the latter a strip of cane stuck into a potato—and spin whenever their hands are free

Photo, H. E. Anthony

and water (latl). It was brought to Europe by the Spaniards, and in a liquid form is still more used in Spain than anywhere else. In Ecuador, of course, it is drunk by everybody. It was said once to be possible to live there for next to nothing. Clothes need cost little, if appearances are no object, in a climate which is warm all the year round. One could breakfast on chocolate, dine off bananas and coconut, and sup on pineapples.

Another product of the nut variety which is exported in large quantities is vegetable ivory. This is the inside of a large nut, which becomes quite hard and is perfectly white. Buttons are made of it by the million. The toquilla plant grows well in this damp, hot climate, and is used for making the fine straw



BOAT-LOADS OF BANANAS ARRIVING AT THE FRUIT MARKET OF GUAYAQUIL, THE CHIEF SEAPORT OF ECUADOR

The present-day Indians of Ecuador are presumably descendants of the Quitus and Caras races. Many of the tribes are well advanced in civilization ; they come into constant contact with the whites, live in permanent communities, and are diligent cultivators of the soil. Banana plantations are numerous in the tropical zone along the coast of Ecuador, and when ready for the knife the clusters of fruit are cut and carried by the Indians to the various ports and markets

Photo, E. L. Andrade



TRANQUIL SCENE OF INDIAN DOMESTICITY IN ECUADOR, THE SMALLEST OF THE ANDINE REPUBLICS

Having safely deposited her children on the improvised island of thick dry reeds, this Indian woman is about to wash the family linen in the shallow creek which supplies her with all the water she requires for household purposes. The native women are as sturdy and laborious as the men; they work alongside them in the fields, sharing in the ploughing, planting, and reaping, and in harvest-time may often be seen performing the arduous task of trampling out the grain

Photo, E. L. Andrade

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GOING OUT WITH MOTHER

Ecuadorian mothers carry their children about in a shawl slung over their shoulders—a sensible method which gives the child safety and comfort and the mother freedom to use her two hands and the least possible fatigue

Photo, H. E. Anthony

hats known as Panamá. This plant is like a drooping, graceful small palm; it is bushy and two or three times as high as a man. Coffee and sugar do well, but are not widely cultivated. It is only since the Panamá Canal was made that Ecuador has begun to show any enterprise. It has now been brought nearer to New York than any European port; its one good port, Guayaquil, is the first to the south of the canal. The country's opportunities are thus very much improved, and something, though not a great deal as yet, has been done to grasp them.

One excellent result of the canal was the cleaning-up of Guayaquil. This

port used to have the worst possible reputation for dirt and disease. Yellow fever and even bubonic plague were frequent visitors. When it was seen that this evil character would prevent its being used by ships coming through the canal the authorities were moved to do their duty. They secured the advice of General Gorgas, the American officer who made Panamá healthy, and they carried out his recommendations. The mosquito, the rat and the flea, carriers of the disease germs, were hunted down. A drainage system was laid. Already the place has lost its bad name.

Guayaquil stands on a broad, shining stream, fringed with forests, on which are seen the boats of the native farmers, boats made of reeds or rushes, and piled with fruit and vegetables. There can be seen also rafts on which families live, and their pigs and poultry, too, the children growing up amphibious, quite as much at home in the water

as on land. When the town comes into view it presents a charming appearance. It is built on green slopes rising from the river, and behind it tower the snowy heights of the Andes. The houses are lightly constructed on account of earthquakes. Over a framework of bamboo-cane plaster or mud is put on. This gives them a poor look at close quarters, though from a distance they seem to be built of stone or marble; it has the advantage, however, of making them pleasantly cool to live in.

Here on the quays lie mountains of cacao-bean bags. Strings of donkeys bring them in. Negroes in endless line stagger under their weight. Here, too,

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among the other exports are hides. Coming up the river one sees cattle feeding in rich grassland, where the growth is up to their muzzles, and higher than that. This can only be seen, though, in the dry season. From December, when the river overflows as the result of the rains, until April or May, a large part of the country is under water. Now it is clear why the houses are built on poles—on stilts, as it were—they keep the inhabitants dry during the floods. The animals which were stalled under the house now have to be taken in up above. All comings in and goings out must be done by boat.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, has no commercial importance. It lies in a basin, shaped like an amphitheatre, between two ranges of mountains. One end of it is some hundreds of feet higher than the other, which gives the city a natural drainage and helps to account for its healthy record compared with that of Guayaquil. The houses are low, in many of them the rooms are entirely on the ground floor; but they have a cheerful appearance with their red roofs surmounting whitewashed walls. There is nothing much to interest or charm in the place itself, but no city commands more glorious views or has more beautiful scenery close to it. It is set among Alpine valleys, where streams splash over their rocky beds through meadows of vivid green; above them tower the peaks with their halos of eternal snow.

This saves the capital from being unendurably hot. It lies just under the Equator, but as a set-off to that it is nine thousand feet high, and the cool air from the glaciers and snowfields makes an

overcoat a necessity in the evenings and sometimes sets Europeans longing for a fire. Until lately there were no heating arrangements at all in the houses of Quito. Looking out over the jumble of flat, or very slightly sloping roofs, one saw not a single chimney. It had never been thought necessary to provide against being cold. Certainly the climate is on the hot side, and it does not change from year's beginning to year's end. Nor do the days grow shorter in winter and longer in summer. Day and night are the same always, as nearly equal as may be.

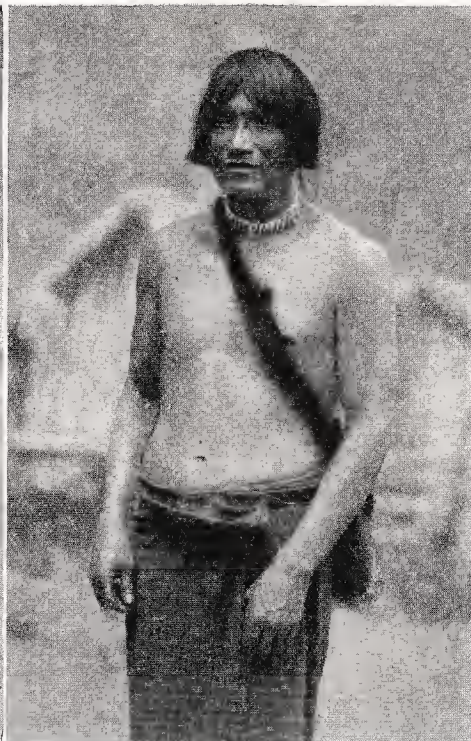
Polite as the people are, men have a habit of keeping on their hats in the house, after taking them off when they enter and asking permission to put them on again. That is because they



ECUADORIANS IN NATIVE HOMESPUN

Indian-made ponchos of Ecuador are excellent in respect of both material and manufacture. Those of the finest quality are woven of wool raised in the highlands round about Quito

Photo, E. L. Andrade



INDIAN MANHOOD: A STUDY OF JIVARO PHYSIQUE

Owing to their internecine warfare and their head-hunting customs the Jivaros are reputed the most savage of the Indians in Ecuador. Physically they are rather below medium height, with fine chest development and rather pleasing physiognomy. The men wear their hair long and ornamented behind with red and yellow toucan feathers. Their only garment is a cotton waist cloth

Photos, H. E. Anthony, American Museum of Natural History

are afraid of being chilled on coming out of the sunshine. In the dusk, when they stroll or sit in the principal square listening to the military band which plays there nightly, they nearly all wear either an overcoat or a poncho—that is, a blanket worn as a cloak, with a hole cut in it for the head to be put through.

At these open-air concerts scarcely ever is a woman to be seen, except the Indian women or the blacks, or perhaps the less particular half-breeds. The Moorish custom, which was left in Spain by its Arab conquerors and was carried to South America by the Spaniards, is strong here. Women are not supposed to be seen in public. Some of them in Ecuador veil their faces when they go out, but that is not often seen now. One notices, however, that they are seldom in the streets. They spend a great deal of time at their

windows. As one glances up at balconies one sees dark eyes gleaming through half-opened shutters, and hears perhaps a laugh or a whispered conversation, made up of comments upon the men who are passing below.

The Galapagos Islands, which form part of the territory of the republic, are but little known or frequented, although their geographical position may render them of greater importance in the future development of the Pacific, lying as they do almost in the direct path of vessels between Australia and Panama. The islands lie nearly six hundred miles from the coast, and consist of five large and two small islands, covering an area of nearly 3,000 square miles. These islands bear English names, probably given by early English explorers and buccaneers, and they were annexed by Ecuador in 1832. The climate is described as one of the

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most agreeable of any part of the world. Their name is derived from the galapago, the giant tortoise which abounds there, but which is unfortunately being exterminated by hunters. The species exists in no other part of the world except in the Mascarene Islands; some specimens have been found to weigh more than six hundred pounds.

On paper Ecuador possesses all the institutions and conveniences of a modern civilized state. Its army, for instance, might be reckoned a formidable force, if one had never seen it. In the army list appear regiments of cavalry, but they



A HEAD-HUNTER

Jivaro head-hunter with bamboo tubes in his ears and a necklace of white buttons. Normally he is good-natured and hospitable



HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSION

Above all things the Jivaro covets a gun, and to procure one from a trader will barter even his trophies of human heads, with the result that the traffic is prohibited

Photos, H. E. Anthony, American Museum of Natural History

are obliged to parade on foot because they have not been furnished with horses. The University of Quito will begin to be of real service to the country when its students are taught the difference between pretence and performance and made to understand that no civilization was ever founded upon the former, or by people whose ideal was wealth without work.

Quito should be better drained, provided with a better supply of water, and lighted in a more effective fashion.

Ecuador

II. Its Long and Turbulent History

By C. R. Enock, F.R.G.S.

Author of "Ecuador," "Peru," etc.

ECUADOR, so called from its position on the Equator, though one of the smallest of the South American States, presents perhaps a greater diversity in its topography and natural features than any of its neighbours on the continent. In Ecuador the Andes reach their greatest development in a stupendous assemblage of snow-covered volcanoes, culminating in the famous Chimborazo and Cotopaxi, the first rising to more than 20,000 ft., while the second, the world's highest active volcano, is a little under that elevation. These, in company with a score of others of slightly less altitude, form an avenue of snowy giants converging upon the Equator beyond Quito.

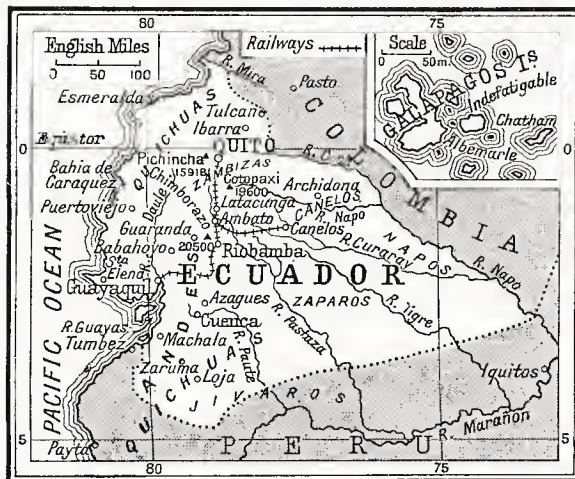
Far below the Cordillera, but fed by its snows and rainstorms, lies on the one hand the fruitful valley of the Guayas river, which empties into the Pacific Ocean below Guayaquil. With hundreds of miles of navigable water, it is the most considerable fluvial system throughout the thousands of miles of the South American coast, and produces in its fertile lands a third of the world's supply of chocolate or cocoa. On the other hand descend various great streams which, traversing vast areas of tropical forest, fall into the mighty Amazon.

The republic thus commands the three topographical and climatic zones of the Pacific littoral, the Cordillera, with its inclement páramos or uplands, and the Amazon interior. The area is variously estimated, for a considerable portion of the orienté, or forested zone, is in dispute with its neighbours, and the figure of 116,000 square miles must be regarded as entirely approximate. On the north and north-east lies Colombia, on the south

and south-east Peru, and on the west the Pacific Ocean.

The history of what to-day is Ecuador may, like that of the other Andine States be divided into three periods—that of the Inca Empire, that of the Spanish Colonial time, and that of the Republic, extending to the present day. The Inca regime, which in the history of Peru flourished from about the middle of the thirteenth century, began much later in Ecuador, usurping the old kingdom of Quito, and closed in 1533, with the Spanish advent.

As in the case of Bolivia and Peru, there was in Quito and on the coast an earlier aboriginal culture, although it can scarcely be said to offer very exact historical data. The prehistoric kingdom of Quito, which appears to have attained to some native splendour in about A.D. 1000, was that of the Caras and Shiris, and its relative culture is attested by well-founded story and archaeological remains. The latter include the remarkable armchairs of sculptured stone arranged in a group on the Manabi hill overlooking the coast, and the dentistry in gold which has been found in the crania of buried chiefs of that age. The Shiri kingdom was overthrown by the Inca Huayna Capac, who established his son Atahualpa, the last reigning Inca, as its monarch. Quito became an important centre, connected with Cuzco, the early Peruvian capital, by the famous Inca road, which traversed the Cordillera for nearly a thousand miles. The rule of Atahualpa, who, after his father's death, went to war with his brother Huascar, emperor of Peru, came to an end with the advent of the Spaniards in 1533, when Atahualpa was foully executed or murdered by Pizarro at



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ECUADOR'S TURBULENT HISTORY

Cajamarca. The real Spanish conquerors of Quito, however, were Almagro and Benalcazar, Pizarro's associates, who arrived in 1534, but Gonzalo Pizarro, the Conquistador's brother, was made governor. Four years later, Gonzalo and his lieutenant Orellana and their followers carried out their famous expedition to the river Napo, and thence to the Amazon into which it flows, one of the most notable journeys of discovery in the history of South America. Orellana descended the great river to its mouth, the first white man to do so. The kingdom of Quito became a presidency of the viceroyalty of Peru, and so remained, except for a brief period of attachment to the viceroyalty of Santa Fé de Bogotá, until 1822, nearly three hundred years of Spanish rule.

The first attempt to throw off the yoke of Spain was made in 1808 by the people of Quito, and the second three years later, but these were crushed. In 1820 the people of Guayaquil took up the cause of liberty, and in 1822, under the generalship of Sucre, sent to assist the patriots by Bolívar, the famous Liberator, together with Peruvian forces under Santa Cruz, they defeated the royalist army at the battle of Pichincha, a great engagement on the slope of the volcano of that name—a battlefield more than 10,000 ft. above sea level. The Spanish president of Quito capitulated, and independence was gained. Ecuador then entered into a triple confederation with New Granada (Colombia) and Venezuela, an arrangement which, however, came to an end in 1830, when Ecuador became an independent republic.

But, as in the case of the other states which had thrown off the dominion of their motherland, independence did not bring peace. There had been a war with Peru in 1828, when the Peruvians occupied Guayaquil and Cuenca, but were defeated at Tarqui. The history of Ecuador from that time is made up of the acts of turbulent political parties and ambitious presidents, whether elected or acquiring office at the point of the sword. Some of these, however, were enlightened and progressive men who advanced the interests of the nation, while others were cold-blooded dictators who terribly abused their power.

Political murders stained the pages of this history on various occasions, the unfortunate inhabitants suffered accordingly, and there were frequent quarrels with neighbouring states. In 1868 a terrific earthquake laid Quito in ruins, together with other towns, and thousands perished. Religious despotism brought about turmoil from time to time, and in 1877 the concordat with Rome was abolished. The struggle between the clerical party and the reformers was bitter, and the power of the clergy was annulled. In the closing years of the nineteenth century the construction of the Guayaquil-Quito railway was begun, a difficult engineering task, the line ascending the Andes from the coastal plain, and this work was carried through mainly by the energy of the American, Archer Harman, who also reorganized the national finances. Ecuador, however, has experienced constant difficulty in meeting her obligations to foreign bondholders.

ECUADOR: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

In north-west of South America, between Colombia and Peru. Has on the west a Pacific coast-line of five hundred miles. Embraces provinces (each under a governor) of Azuay, Bolívar, Cañar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Imbabura, Leon, Loja, Manabí, Napo-Pastaza, Oro, Pichincha, Los Rios, Tungurahua, and Galapagos archipelago (last named under territorial chief). Area about 116,000 square miles. Huge volcanic mountain system runs north to south, enclosing valley from twenty to fifty miles wide. (Chimborazo 20,500 feet, Cotopaxi 19,600 feet, Pichincha 15,910 feet). Variety of altitude and climate. Densely wooded region stretches into interior from Eastern Cordillera. Population estimated at between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000, largely Indian, about 400,000 of mixed blood. Language Spanish.

Government and Constitution

Republic, with President, elected for four years, and a congress (Senate of thirty-two elected for four years, and House of Deputies of forty-eight). Adult franchise limited to literates. Peonage abolished in 1918.

Army and Navy

Regular army of about 5,000; compulsory service since 1921; military school at Quito. Navy consists of three vessels.

Commerce and Industries

Staple product cacao. Exports in 1920 £5,528,379 (cacao £3,557,340, vegetable ivory £587,864, coffee £91,691, hats £77,465, hides £56,186, rubber £15,457). Imports £4,809,432 (woven goods, foodstuffs, machinery, clothing). Chief manufacture, Panamá hats. Trade chiefly with U.S.A. and Great Britain. Mining and oil undeveloped. Gold condor of ten sucres=£1.

Communications

Railway mileage only about 400. Guayaquil chief port, linked with Quito by mountain line 300 miles long. Communication between Guayaquil and cacao-bearing region of southern coastal strip served by streams forming the River Guayas; lower reaches navigated by steamers; upper by canoes and rafts.

Religion and Education

Roman Catholicism general. Primary education free and compulsory; universities at Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca; law college at Loja. In 1920-21 there were 1,716 schools with an attendance of 103,344, and 2,438 teachers.

Chief Towns

Quito, capital (population 70,000), Guayaquil (93,850), Cuenca (30,000), Riobamba (12,000), Ambato, Loja, Latacunga (about 10,000).



EXCHANGING GREETINGS ON THE GOLDEN SAND BESIDE THE SHINING WATER NEAR SAKKARA

The pool beside which the camel driver is engaged in converse with his veiled companion is near the village of Sakkara. In the background stately palms lift their graceful heads towards the ethereally blue sky; in the distance rises one of the famous pyramids. The necropolis of Sakkara is a city of silence covered with extraordinary monuments. Its Arabic cognomen is supposed to be a corruption of an earlier Egyptian name derived from Saker, the god of the dead of Memphis

Photo, A. W. Cutler